

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /058 W

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R 261045Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3821

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0199

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TC

SUBJ: UAE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. I HAD MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN SOME TIME TO REVIEW UAE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI DURING CALLS ON HIM JANUARY 20 AND 24. SUWAIDI HAS PRACTICALLY GIVEN UP FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO GIVE DOMESTIC MATTERS HIS FULL ATTENTION.

2. SUWAIDI SAID IT HAD TO BE ADMITTED THAT PAST YEAR'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT STRENGTHENING OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY IN CERTAIN KEY AREAS HAD TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES COME TO NOTHING. OTHER RULERS WERE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED FOR THESE STEPS AT THIS TIME. SINCE IT WAS POINTLESS TO KEEP BANGING ONE'S HEAD AGAINST WALL, AND SINCE SHAIKH ZAYID BELIEVED NATIONAL UNITY MUST COME ABOUT THROUGH PROCESS OF CONSENSUS RATHER THAN COERCION, DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED TO BACK OFF AND CHANGE TACTICS. ACCORDINGLY, ZAYID AND SUWAIDI WOULD FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING FEDERAL CABINET AND TRYING TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER. SUWAIDI SAID HE EXPECTED CONSULTATIONS
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TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY BETWEEN SHAIKHS ZAYID AND RASHID ON NEW

CABINET AS SOON AS TWO RULERS RETURNED FROM PAKISTAN AT END OF THIS MONTH. SUWAIDI SAID THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MINISTRIES BUT MAIN POINT WOULD BE TO BRING ENERGETIC AND RESPONSIBLE NEW PEOPLE INTO KEY POSITIONS OF FEDERAL STRUCTURE.

3. GIVEN POLITICAL REALITIES, SUWAIDI THOUGHT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION WAS ONLY LIKELY NEW STEP IN FEDERATION/EMIRATE RELATIONSHIP TO BE TAKEN IN NEAR FUTURE. I GATHERED FROM SUWAIDI THAT PUSH ON MILITARY FRONT WOULD BE DROPPED ENTIRELY FOR TIME BEING, EVEN EFFORT TO GET SOME FORMULATION THROUGH SUPREME COUNCIL THAT WOULD SAVE FEDERALIST FACES. AT SOME SUBSEQUENT STAGE SUWAIDI SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BRING VARIOUS EMIRATE MILITARY FORCES UNDER NEWLY-FORMED UAE DEFENSE COUNCIL, WHICH COULD INITIALLY SERVE AS COORDINATING BODY UNTIL POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES FAVORED REAL MERGER OF FORCES.

4. SUWAIDI ALSO SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS IN GETTING DUBAI TO CONTRIBUTE TO FEDERAL BUDGET. IN SPITE OF HIS GROWING INCOME, SHAIKH RASHID WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO SPEND ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF DUBAI'S BORDERS.
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